

1672

A Most

Barbarous Murther.

Being a True

RELATION

OF THE

Trial and Condemnation of *Henry Jones*
and *Mary Jones*, at the Assizes held for the Town and County of
Monmouth, before the Judges appointed for that Circuit, on *Thurs-*
day the 7th of *March*, 1672. For Murthering of their own Mother
Mrs. Grace Jones of *Monmouth* in the County of *Monmouth*, on the
Eleventh day of *October* last, 1671.

WITH

The Particulars of the Murther; And
the Wonderfull Discovery of the Murtherers,

Also their *Confessions* and *Speeches* at the
Places of Execution on *Saturday* the 16th of this

Instant *March*, 1672.

With Allowance.

London, Printed for *E. Horton*, 1672.

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DISCONTINUOUS MOUNTAIN.

MOUNTAIN

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A Barbarous Murther, committed by

Henry Jones and Mary Jones, upon their Mother Mrs. Grace Jones of Monmouth in the County of Monmouth, on the Eleventh day of October last, 1671.

HENRY Jones of Monmouth in the County of Monmouth, by his late Father Thomas Jones of the said Town, was very carefully brought up in his Youth; And when he came to maturity, put by his said Father to an Attorney, and after he had served his time with his Master, did return home to his said Mother Grace Jones, his Father being then dead, and left her possessed of a very good Estate for her Life, to the value of 100 l. per annum; and afterwards practising for the space of Two years in good reputation and Credit in the place where he Lived, did severall times perswade his said Mother Grace Jones, to part with her Estate to him that he might enjoy the same; But his said Mother knowing that it was her right for her Life, and being then possessed of it, having no other Maintenance for her and the rest of

her Children, did refuse to grant his request: But withall did not deny to assist and help him in his Necessity and Occasion to the utmost of her ability. Yet not being satisfied with the Kindness of his Mother, in parting with what she could afford, but coveting the Possession in his own hands, did on the Eleventh day of October last past, Intice his said Mother to walk with him into the Fields to a Barn of hers about a quarter of a mile from Monmouth, perswading her that she had lost Corn out of it; And said, He had often told her of it, yet she would never believe him, but now he could make it appear plainly to her, if she would please to go with him to the Barn to see; telling his Mother that she would do very well to look after it. At length, through her Son's much importuning of her, she went with him towards the Evening in her Slippers, and coming to the Barn, she found the Corn scattered from thence to a small Wood about two Furlongs from it; which corn Henry Jones and his Servant George Briggis had before scattered, and carried into the Wood, the better to make his Mother believe that to be true which he had before affirmed to be so; and likewise to execute his Bloody Intent upon her, which he had designed several times before: Which accordingly he brought to pass, in perswa-

ding his Mother to go to the Wood, and there she should find severall *Sheafs of her Wheat*. The Mother coming to the Wood side was very unwilling to have gone in to it, and desired her Son to bring the Corn to the Stile by the side of it; yet at her Son's intreaty she went in to it; where she found severall *Sheafs* as her Son had told her, and stooping down to feel whether it were Wheat or Straw, rubbing it in her hands, her Son shot her in the Head with a Pistol charg'd with a Slugg; which done, he bade his Boy *George Briggie* do his Office, who thereupon cut her Throat, and told his Master, *Thar's a Mothers Throat cut as tough as an Old Ewes*. This done, the Son took from her five pounds in money, and severall Rings which was on her Fingers. After all this, the Son and his Boy (who was a Butchers Son near the Town of Monmouth) endeavoured to draw the dead body to a River near the Wood; but it proving too heavy for them, they were forced to leave it near to the place where they did the Murther. The Servant for thus complying with his Masters desire in the Murther, had five pounds promised him by his said Master, and a New Suit of Clothes.

After which, the Boy went to the Farm-House of his Slain-Mistris near the Wood, and the Son to his
mothers

Mother's House in Monmouth, who had not above half a mile home at the most, from the place where he committed the Murder; yet he was *four hours* going thither, the Devil appearing to him in several Shapes, and leading him out of his way. At length he got to his Mothers House, and coming to the Door, giving a little Wrap with his fingers, his Sister presently let him in, (*as was afterwards proved against her at the Assizes*) who staid up for him, and that Night washed her *Brathers Bloody Clothes*. But early the next Morning a *Poor Woman* of Monmouth going to the *Wood* to gather some *Sticks* to make her a fire, chanced to see the dead Body, and coming near to her, found her to be Mrs. *Grace Jones* of Monmouth: Upon this, the Woman returned back to the Town, and acquainted the *Magistrates*, That in such a *Wood* there lay such a Person murdered; upon which they went to the House of Mrs. *Grace Jones*, and found her Son *Henry Jones* in bed, and told him, *They heard his Mother was Murdered*. He made very strange of it, and seemed to be much troubled at it; but going with the Townesmen to the place where his Mother lay dead, by her was found several *Footsteps*, and measuring the Feet of them that were present, they found these *Footsteps* to fit the Feet of Henry Jones; and suspecting

suspecting him to be concerned, they charged him with the Murder, and had him and his Man before two or three Justices met for that purpose, who Examined first the Boy, and then the Master; the Boy confessed, that his Master shot her in the Head; And the Master said, the Boy cut her Throat; And so the one impeached the other.

After this, the Daughter *Mary Jones* was taken into Examination, suspecting her to be Guilty with her Brother in this Murder, not only for beating of the little Children for crying and making enquiry after their mother, but for washing her Brothets bloody Clothes, and endeavouring to conceal her mothers death: Yet some Friends thinking her to be Innocent, became Bayl for her, and she went at liberty: but within five or six weeks after she made her Escape from *Monmouth*, and was gone several miles towards *London*, but the bayl hearing of it, she was pursued and apprehended, and carried back again; where she was committed Prisoner till the next Assizes.

For which *Bloody Murder*, they were all Three brought to Tryall at the Assizes held at *Monmouth* by the Judges appointed for that Circuit, on
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(23)
Thursday the 7th of this Instant March, 1671. Henry Jones before the Affizes confessed he shot his Mother in the Neck, and the Boy cut her Throat after she lay gasping on the ground; But at the Affizes he stood Mute, and would not plead to his Indictment; He had Sentence to be preisd to death, and was put under the Preis on Saturday the 9th of March, and was dead upon Monday the 11th of March about 12. of the Clock.

George Briggis the Servant was found Guilty of the Murther, and was drawn upon a sledge to the Gallows, and made this Confession, That he did Cut his Mistress's Throat after she was shot, For which he was hanged, according to his Sentence, on Saturday the 16th of this Instant March.

Mary Jones the Sister was also found Guilty, she was drawn upon a Sledge with the Servant, and was burnt at a Post near the Gallowses, on the same day being the 16th of March as abovesaid.

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